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What to Expect

Before we get too deep into each part of our FIELD Guide in Chapters 2 through 5, we want you to be familiar with the structure.

Each chapter will highlight one of the key components of FIELD, explain why it's important, highlight examples of what it can look like, and share resources you can use immediately in your classroom. We will also share FIELD best practices and examples in action developed by award-winning teachers from across the country and organized into FIELD Guide Hikes.

Glenn's wife, Maura, is a hiker. A serious hiker. Someone who scales 14,000+ foot Colorado mountains and who talks about elevation sickness, scree, hiking boots vs. walking sandals, and weather changes above the tree line. Glenn does not talk about any of those things. Glenn likes flat hikes in cool temperatures that end sooner rather than later. But even though they experience the activity at different levels, they both love the adventure and connecting with the outdoors.

Both can also find the right trail aligned to their hiking preferences by using a hiking trail grading system (see Figure 1.1 on next page). Understanding the hiking difficulty scale can help people become better hikers by highlighting criteria like incline, length, size of obstacles, and surface type. Difficulty ratings can help hikers plan their hikes based on their abilities and physical fitness to perform various types of hikes. So Glenn can look for "easy" and "moderate," while Maura can focus on "difficult."

Using the FIELD Guide in a social studies classroom can be a bit like choosing the right trail for your level of hiking experience. Some of us have been doing this for a while and, like Maura, are ready for difficult instructional designs and activities. Some of us are just starting out or are new to the idea of using inquiry-based instruction and are looking for easy or moderate.

So in each chapter, we have included examples with different levels of inclines and obstacles so that you can find the

Figure 1.1

Trail Grade Guide



easy



Mostly smooth and wide. Dirt with occasional unevenness, easy terrain and little elevation gain



moderate



Mostly smooth, variable width. Dirt with occasional unevenness, and minor changes in elevation



difficult



Dirt and loose rock with continual unevenness. Major changes in elevation with long steep sections

instructional activity that is perfect for you. We have also created our own rating scale based on activity length, use of primary sources, prep time, and assessment type.

Look for these rating logos for each of the examples included in each chapter:



Quickly implemented with one or two learning activities. May include a simple formative assessment. Minimal preparation, usually delivered in one class period or less.

EASY HIKE



MODERATE HIKE

Mostly straightforward but may involve a variety of learning activities and assessment types. Could involve several hours of preparation and research, usually delivered in one or two class periods.



DIFFICULT HIKE

May require diverse activities and strategies, including formative and summative assessment. Will involve multiple hours of preparation and research, delivered in three or more class periods.

When a hiker is making their way up a fourteener in Colorado, they are going to need a field guide to help them be successful. Some days, your classroom might feel like a relaxing walk where you can stop and smell the flowers. Other days feel like you are climbing that fourteener in the Rockies while carrying every one of your students in your backpack. We get it. We've been there.

As you make your way through the book, be sure to grab the QR codes sprinkled along the way! Many of them will take you to our companion website at socialstudiesfieldguide.com. There you will find additional resources, lessons, and ways to connect with us.

And that is why we are excited to share our FIELD Guide. We want you to have everything you need to be successful!